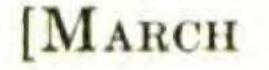
Rhodora

44



V. THE EASTERN AMERICAN OCCURRENCE OF ATHYRIUM ALPESTRE

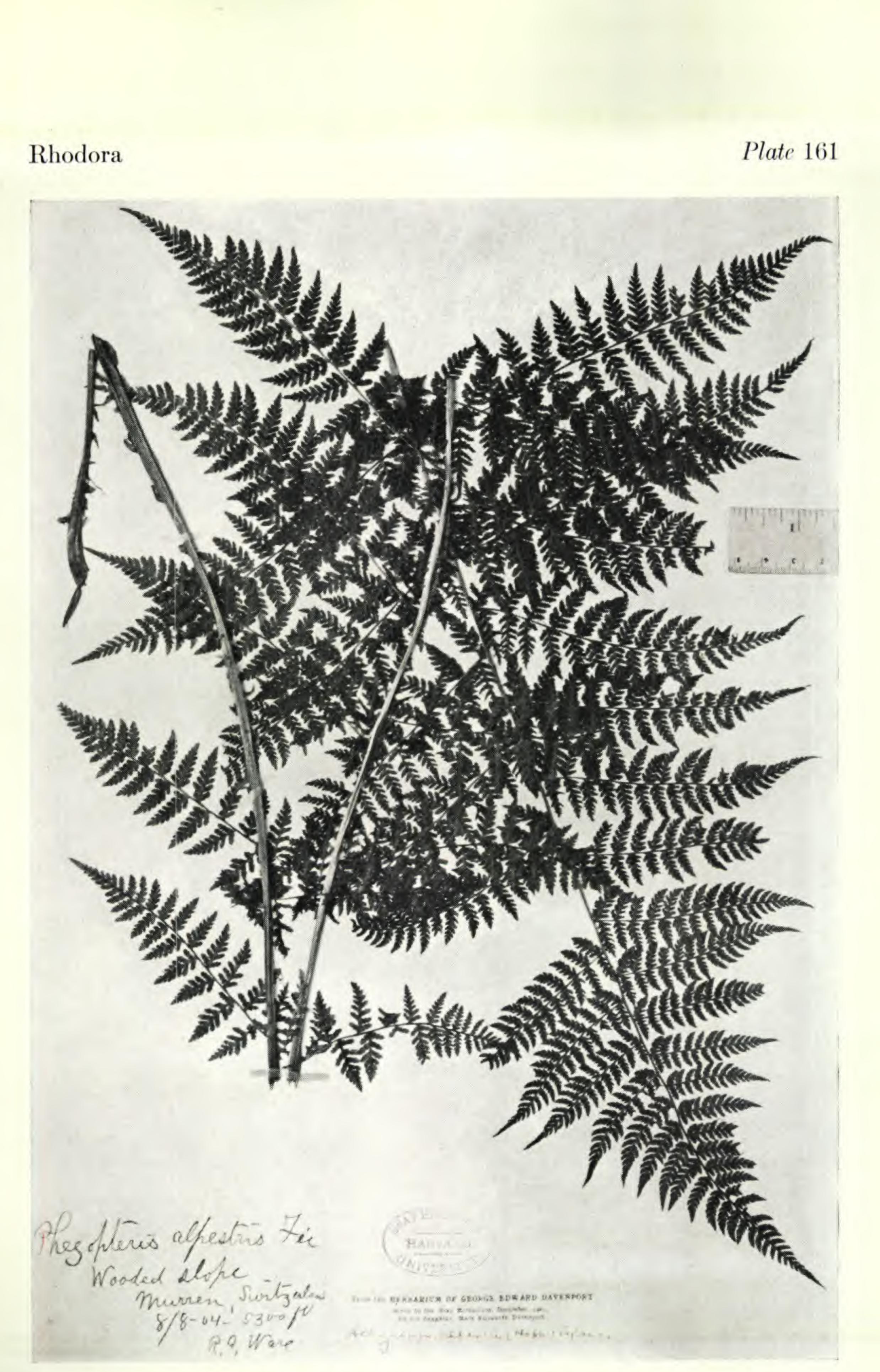
(Plates 161-168)

IN 1917 Dr. F. K. Butters pointed out¹ that the plants which had long passed in America as Athyrium alpestre (Hoppe) Rylands or as Phegopteris alpestris (Hoppe) Mett. differ from the Eurasian type and he called our plant A. alpestre, var. americanum; and a year later Maxon, emphasizing, besides the characters noted by Butters, some habital points of the plant of western North America, elevated it to specific rank as A. americanum (Butters) Maxon² and designated as the type (which Butters had neglected to do) a plant from the Selkirk Mountains. Still later, Christensen, who certainly knows the Eurasian plant, after discussing the Eurasian range of A. alpestre said: "In America the closely allied form A. alpestre americanum Butters."³ The treatments recently published give us, then, the choice of calling the American plant either A. alpestre, an endemic American variety, an endemic American species or a "closely allied form," and it is with the hope of throwing some clearing light upon the dilemma that the present notes and the accompanying photographs are presented. In eastern America Athyrium alpestre or its representatives are as yet known from only two regions: the gulches of Bard Harbor Hill, one of the Highlands of St. John, in northwestern Newfoundland, and the northern and northeastern slopes of the Table-top Range in Gaspé County, Quebec. On my four different visits to these areas I have during the first days studied the plants with enthusiasm and have put up, altogether, hundreds of sheets of specimens; but in each case, the plants soon proving to be abundant, my enthusiasm for them has gradually waned. The plant of Gaspé had been included by Butters and by Maxon with the cordilleran var. americanum or A. americanum; consequently, when the Newfoundland material was labeled it was assumed to be the same and it was later recorded⁴ without question as var. americanum. Comparison now shows, however, that the Newfoundland and Gaspé plants are not quite identical, nor are either of them satisfactorily placed with the cordilleran plant. The plant of Eurasia has decidedly "leafy" fronds,

¹ Butters, RHODORA, xix. 204 (1917).

² Maxon, Am. Fern. Journ. viii. 120 (1918).

- ³ C. Christens. in Hultén, Fl. Kamtch. and Adj. Isl. i. 40 (1927).
- 4 Fernald, RHODORA, XXVIII. 117, 148 (1926).



ATHYRIUM ALPESTRE FROM SWITZERLAND, \times 1/3

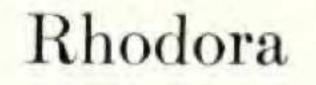


Plate 162





ATHYRIUM ALPESTRE FROM ICELAND, $\times \frac{1}{3}$



PLANTS OF THE PACIFIC COAST Desirchanted by C F BARRA No. 9335 Mo. 9335 Mo. 9335 Mary Films Alexandria Midt Mary Forth Paris Trade - 3 Mary 1997 Mary Forth Paris - Trade - 3 Mary 1997 Mary Forth Paris - 1 Mary 1997 Mary Paris - 1 Mary 1997 Mary attenicion alfester (topper) Reflands ex horns

ATHRYIUM ALPESTRE, VAR. AMERICANUM FROM CALIFORNIA, X 1/3



ATHRYIUM ALPESTRE, VAR AMERICANUM FROM CALIFORNIA, \times 1/3



Athyriam alpestic (Arpp) Ayland HARVALD Party and a second seco

1

ATHYRIUM ALPESTRE FROM NEWFOUNDLAND, $\times \frac{1}{3}$